



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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02/27/2014 Minutes

Arlington Open Space Committee Minutes 2.27.14

Approved 3/27/2014

Present: Ann LeRoyer, Joey Glushko, Elizabeth Karpati, Leslie Mayer, Michele Hassler, Jane Auger

Absent: David White, Patsy Kraemer, Lisa Decker, Teresa DeBenedictis

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm

MINUTES: Minutes from the January 23, 2014 meeting were approved with one correction.

MASTER PLAN PROCESS:

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting 2.26.14: Ann, Joey, and Leslie attended; notes and the Public Facilities and Services working paper (which includes a section on Recreation) are on the Town website for public review.

Some clarification is still needed for categories outlined in the working paper – the consultants being used are not from Arlington, and may not be familiar with the breakdown of open spaces vs Town-owned land used for other purposes.

It is noted that the town doesn't have a lot of land for various needs, such as snow storage, damaged trees, cemetery, etc. More documentation is needed, including an appendix and up-to-date map of open spaces, park and recreation facilities, etc. Working Papers on Natural Resources, Open Spaces & Recreation, and Historic & Cultural Resources; discussions to begin on May 1, 2014, according to Town Website.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA):

Town Meeting will vote on a warrant article to get CPA on ballot in November; this statewide project has already been approved in many communities. It relies on a property tax surcharge (up to 3 percent as voted by each town) and is matched by state funds (in 2013 the match was about 50%, but it varies from year to year).

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on this article on March 10, 2014.

Project proposals are reviewed annually after CPA is passed; recommendations for projects will be made to Town Meeting, which votes on each one to be approved.

Open space, recreation projects/ affordable housing/ historic preservation are the specified categories for CPA funding.

OSC voted unanimously to endorse the warrant article - Motion by Joey Glushko, seconded by Elizabeth Karpati.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN (OSRP):

CDBG funding application for OSRP report submitted for \$9,900; funds to be approved at Town Meeting in spring 2014.

RFP process - Joey will investigate protocol for requests less than \$10,000.

Committee members will review the previous report for updating Chapter 5: inventory of lands of conservation and recreation interest and the revised Action Plan Chapter 9 from 2010 for projected goals. Ann will send electronic versions of Chapter 5 and 9 to all members for their revisions and updates.

Water bodies are described in Chapter 4: environmental inventory and analysis.

Appendices also need to be reviewed and updated, e.g. ADA, DEP, 10 yr capital plan, etc.

Adam Kurowski is working on updating maps

2014 TOWN SURVEY/VISION 2020:

Survey responses and comments were reviewed from Vision 2020 questions – many mentioned need for signage, but this is complicated by Town's desire to have a single coherent signage design.

MILL BROOK LINEAR PARK: tabled until next meeting

MISCELLANEOUS PROJECT REPORTS:

Belmont Uplands benefit concert planned for March 1 at Belmont Unitarian Church.

Symmes development is proceeding, new Friends group forming.

ECOFEST at Town Hall on Saturday, March 29, 2014, 10am-2pm

TOWN MEETING begins April 28.

Next OSC meetings: March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm

Submitted by Jane Auger